

Confidentiality of tickets for exceeding national speed limits

HB 187 by Craddick (Sibley)

- DIGEST:** HB 187 would have stipulated that if a person was issued a speeding ticket for violating a state speed limit that was lowered to comply with federal law, information concerning that ticket would be confidential and could not be released to anyone by the Department of Public Safety.
- The bill would not have applied to information about speeding tickets issued for speeds over the statutory maximum prima facie speed limits established by the Uniform Act Regulating Traffic on Highways.
- GOVERNOR'S REASON FOR VETO:** "This bill would prohibit the Department of Public Safety from giving the names of speeders to other law enforcement agencies or insurance companies unless the speeders were driving at speeds greater than 70 miles per hour. The effect of this bill would be to abolish speed limits between 55 and 70 miles per hour, causing an increase in traffic accidents, injuries and deaths. It would also lead to escalating auto insurance costs."
- "Because Texas is near the 50 percent limit for compliance with national speed limits, any further reduction in compliance will lead to the transfer of federal highway construction funds to safety programs. This bill would also be an administrative nightmare for the Department of Public Safety, since it would have to establish two sets of records for speeding violations. The 55 miles per hour speed limit has contributed to an almost 50 percent drop in auto fatalities since 1981. The savings in lives alone is sufficient reason to veto this bill."
- RESPONSE:** Rep. Tom Craddick, the author of HB 187, said: "It is ridiculous to veto this bill. The bill would not raise the speed limit from 50-70 mph — it would merely prevent motorists from being doubly penalized by a ticket and increased insurance rates. The bill only pertains to increased insurance rates. This veto is a total sellout to the insurance companies."
- NOTES:** HB 187 was analyzed in the April 13 *Daily Floor Report*.